COUNTRY: U.K./Western Germany

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT: Developments in Rubber Fabricating SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A2g

PLACE ACQUIRED: [redacted]

25X1A6a

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SOURCE : [redacted]

1. In the U.K., I visited the Dunlop company's plants in Liverpool and Manchester. My first interest was P.V.C. conveyor belting being developed as they have no local supply and need dollars to buy necessary synthetics. It is still in the experimental stage and the Coal Board will purchase only test lots. There is no incentive to pursue this development in the U.S. as the P.V.C. belt is in no way superior to neoprene belts and probably inferior in many ways. It is of interest that German manufacturers have decided they will find the necessary dollars to buy proper synthetic rubber.

2. A study group of technicians visiting the U.S. picked up the idea of using flexible mandrils in making vertical braided hose. They had perfected the use of these rubber mandrils so they are getting 25 heats from each as compared with four in the U.S.

3. They have also developed a traveling braider for making horizontal braided hose. The only advantage is that it saves space so is of no current value to U.S. manufacturers. When the braider is stationary, there must be space at the end of the machine for the mandril to move as the braiding progresses. The traveling braider reduces the space necessary to one half.

4. In Germany, I made short visits to plants of Englebert at Aachen; Continental, Hanover; and Metzeler, Munich but saw nothing new in products or methods of processing.

5. At the Phoenix, Hamburg plant, they cure hose in water that would be cured in a lead press in the U.S. The latter method is superior but requires a volume of production that can not be developed. It is a good substitute where a smaller volume is necessary.

6. The Franz Clouth, Cologne plant has a new and revolutionary product, a conveyor belt that can be turned 90° in direction. At present, it is necessary to dump the load from one conveyor to another running at right angles to make this change. As the product is not yet protected by patent, I would prefer not to discuss any details. My company expects to be licensed to produce it in the U.S.

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7. My visit to the Dunlop tire plant at Hanau was a courtesy call. The plant produces annually:

1,000,000 passenger car & motorcycle tires
250,000 truck tires
3,000,000 bicycle tires

8. It was interesting to me that they are planning to erect a separate building to house development and production of racing tires only.

9. I spent one day at the Bayer, Leverkusen plant in their rubber department. It was new to me to see a producer of raw materials doing their own test work, as in the U.S. they would rely on the fabricator to carry on this development. In their test work, Bayer produces much of their own requirements of tires, belting, hose, boots, etc.

10. Their chief interest was in Vulcollan, both in improving the product and methods of processing. I was shown nothing in this line that is not already well known.